Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

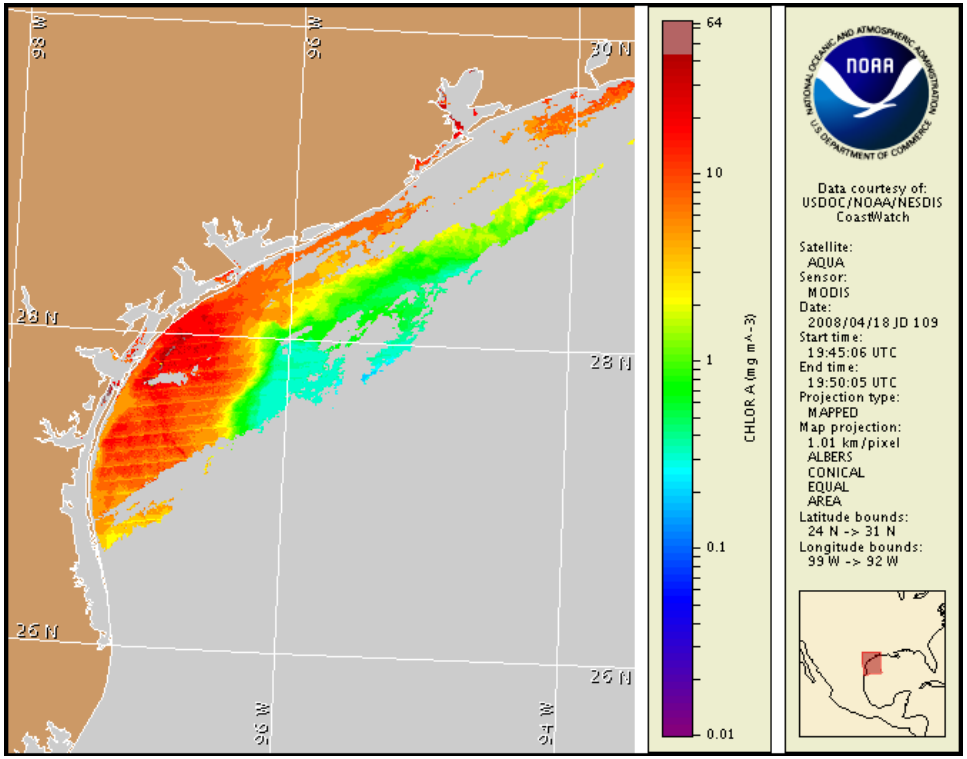
Region: Texas

23 April 2008

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: April 16, 2008



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from April 14 to 21 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

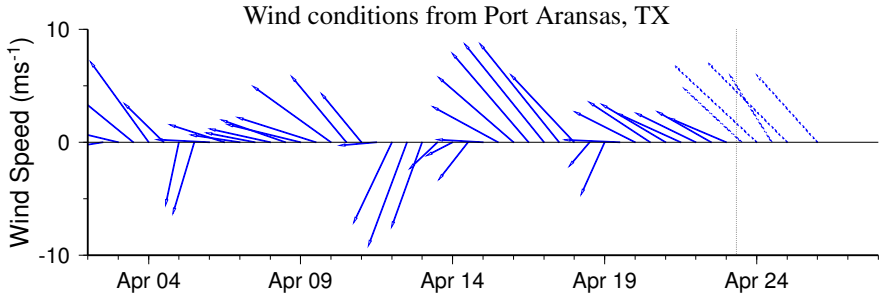
http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Conditions Report

The previously reported harmful bloom has appeared to have ended. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has re-opened all Bays to shellfishing. There have been reports of localized intensely red blooms along Padre Island. These blooms are caused by an organism called *Noctiluca*, which is not toxic. It is not the usual red tide organism (*Karenia brevis*) and does not cause respiratory irritation.

Analysis

Blooms of *Dinophysis* are rare in the US and we do not have a standard for monitoring with remote sensing. Imagery does not provide a useful reference for the blooms, but may aid in circulation patterns. Indications are that *Dinophysis* has diminished significantly. The strong onshore winds may produce resuspension and discolored water that are normal and not related to harmful algae. Blooms of *Noctiluca* have been too small for detection. -Lopez, Stumpf

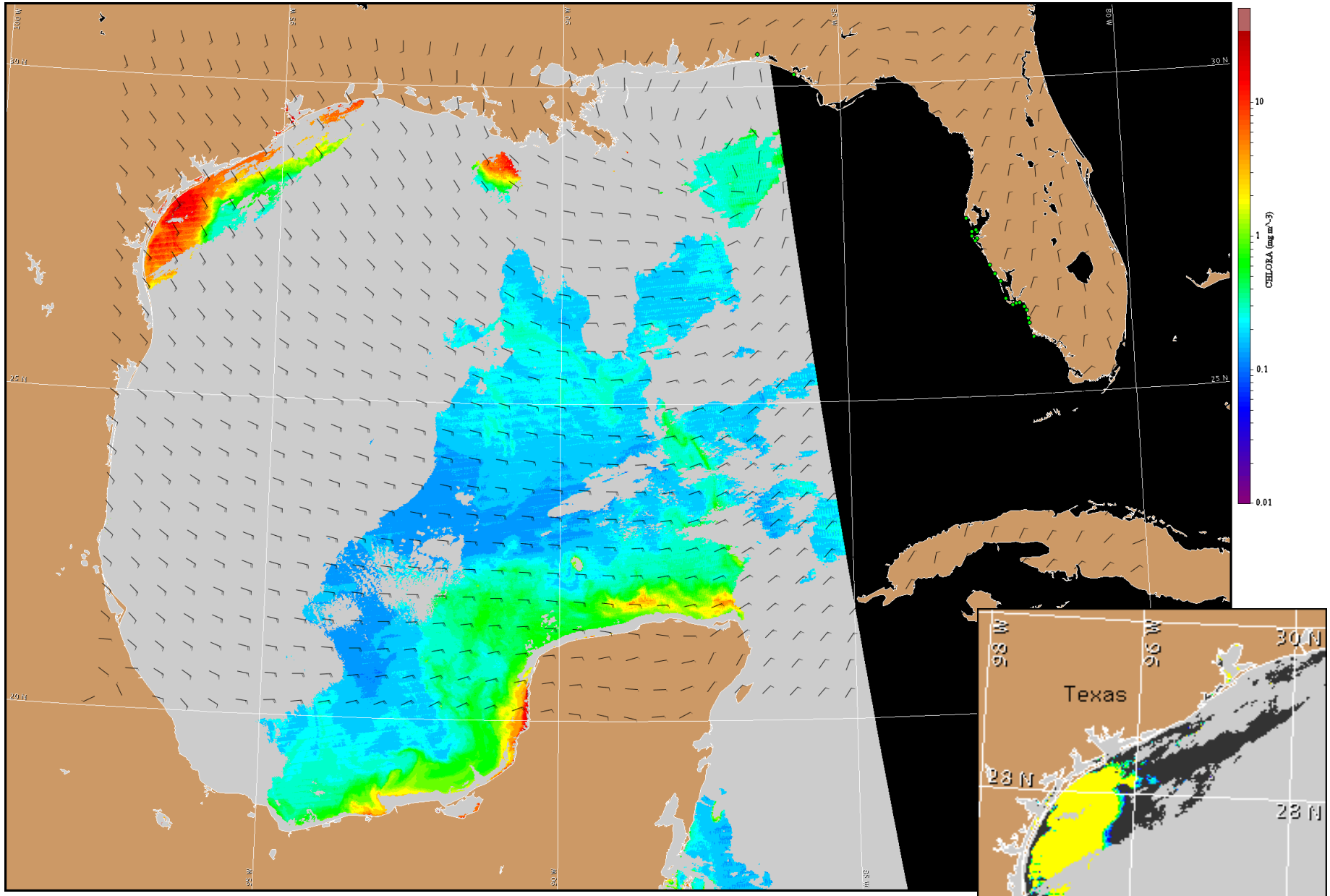


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Wind Analysis

Moderate to strong onshore winds this week. Today and tomorrow, southeast winds at 10-15 knots increasing to 15-20 knots on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday, southeast winds around 15 knots.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA CoastWatch bulletin archive: http://coastwatch.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins_ns.htm



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for April 24, 2008 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from April 14 to 21 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).